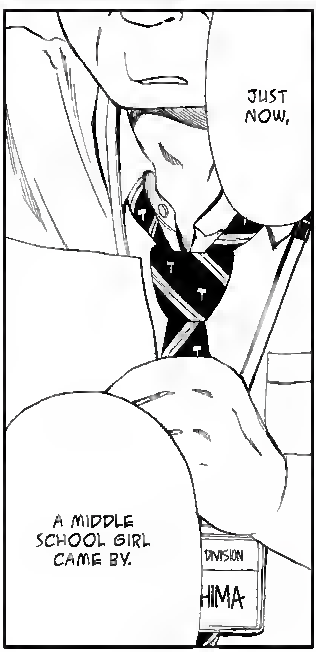

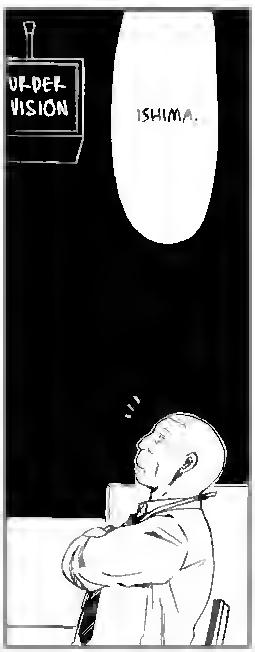

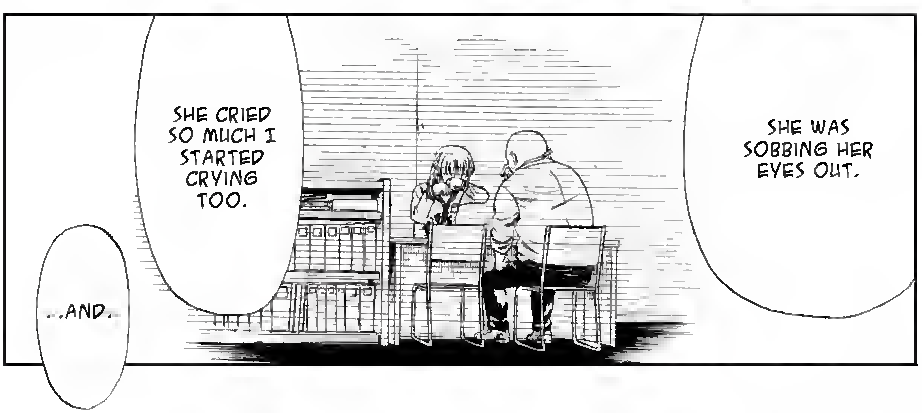

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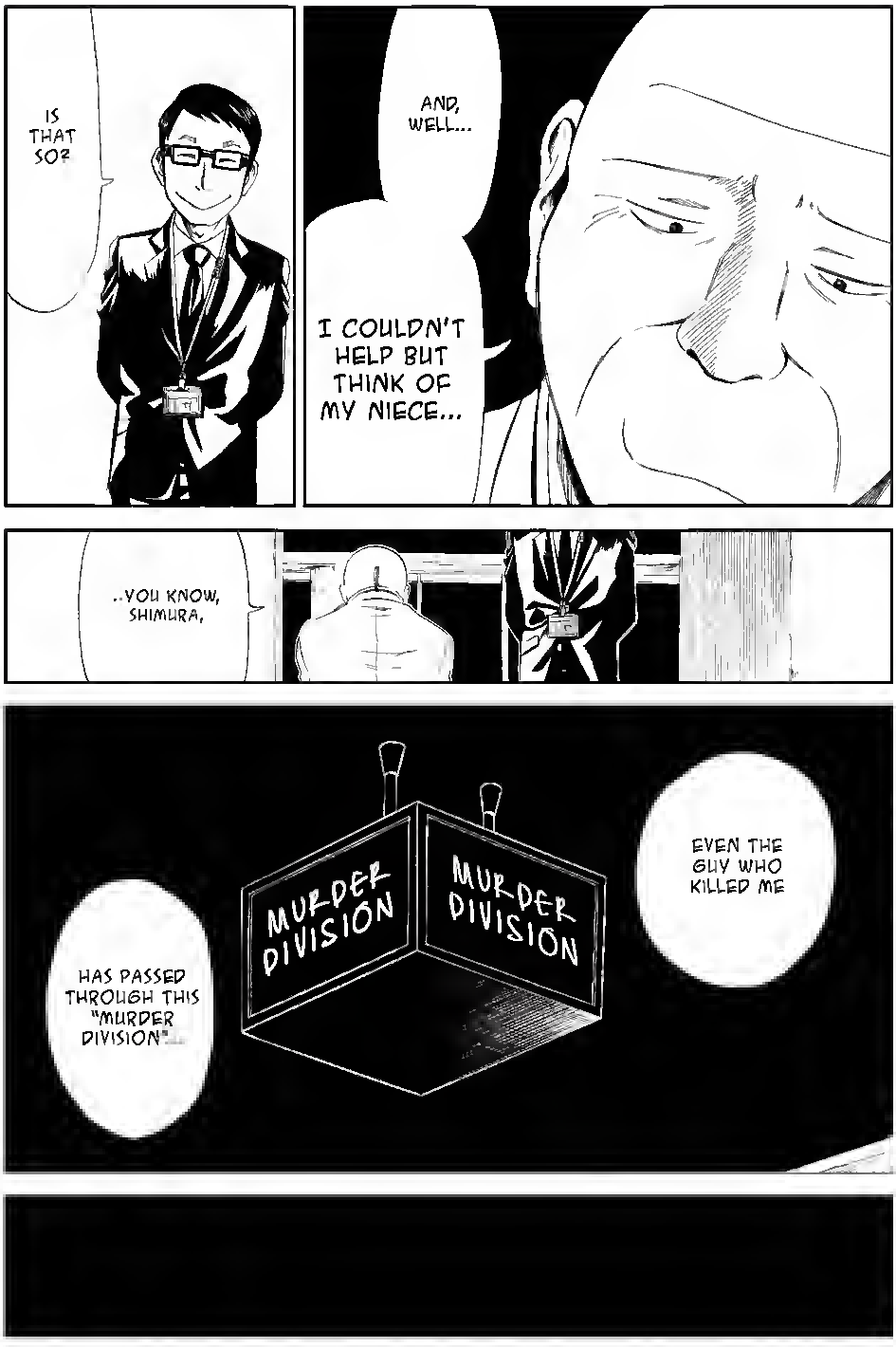
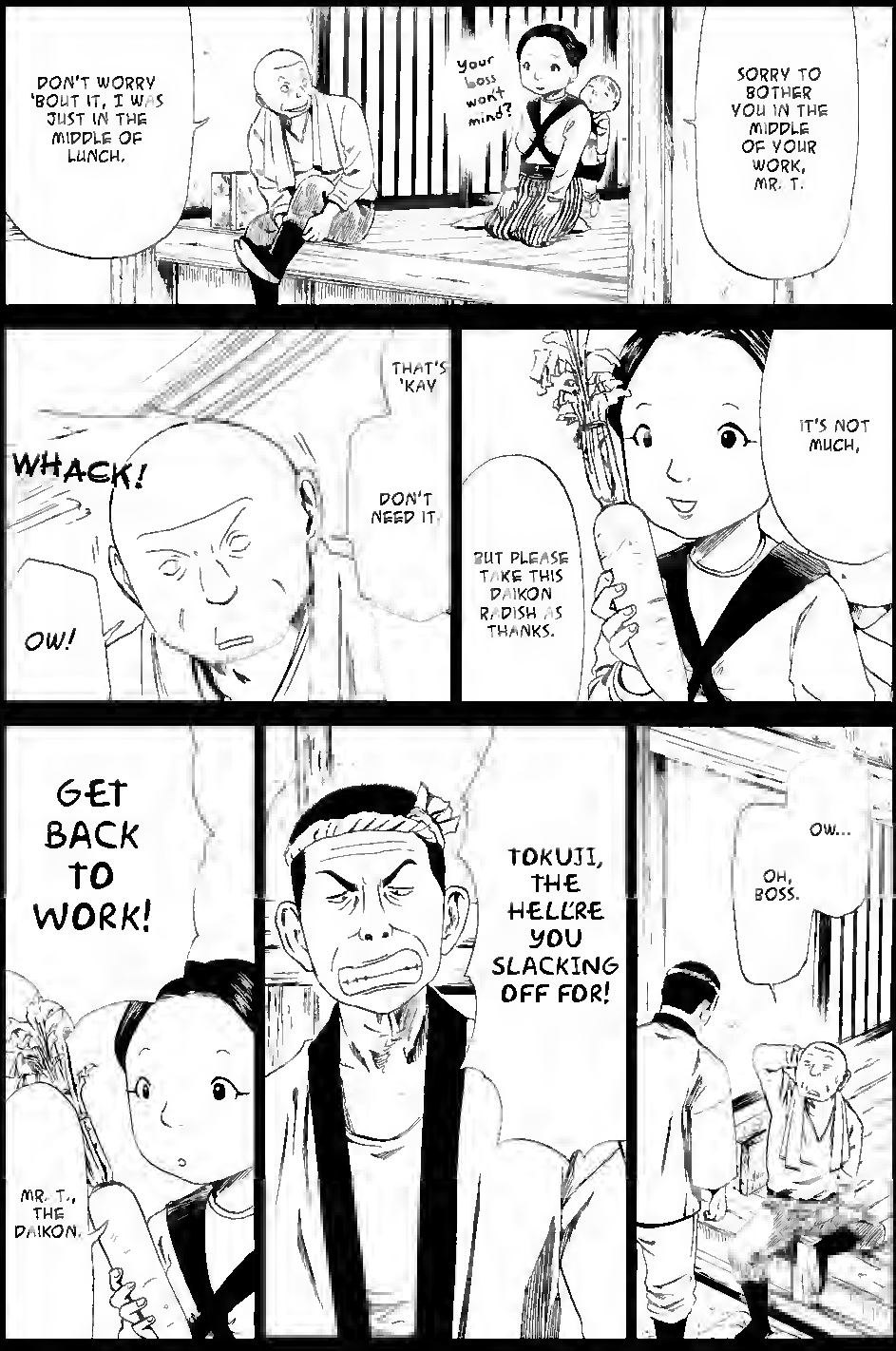

IS THAT SO?
AND, WELL...
I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK OF MY NIECE...
..YOU KNOW, SHIMURA,
MURDER DIVISION
MURDER DIVISION
EVEN THE GUY WHO KILLED ME
HAS PASSED THROUGH THIS "MURDER DIVISION"...

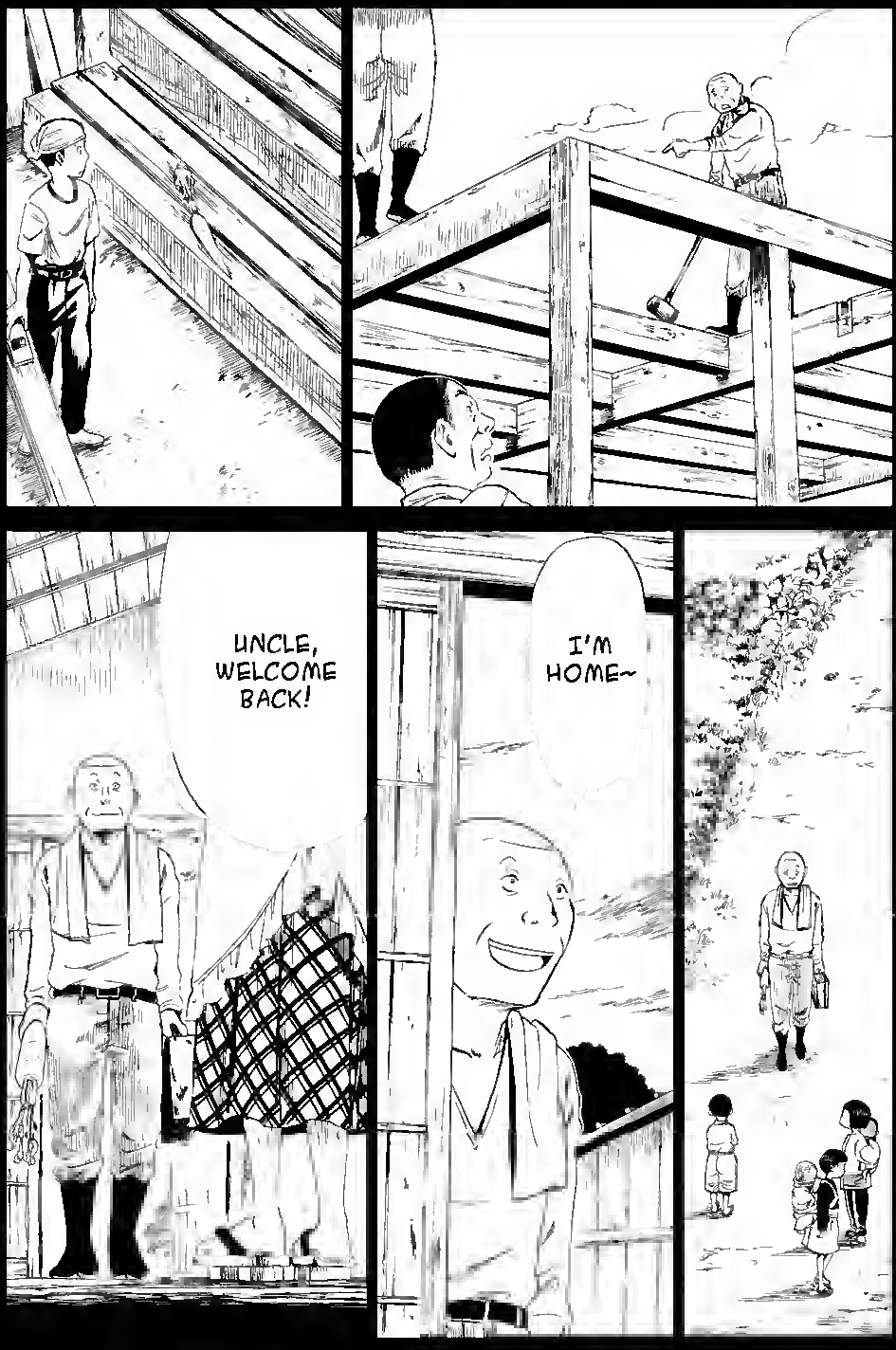
Ch. 9

Ishima Tokuji

pound
pound
IT'S DONE!
NOW YOU CAN RUN AROUND TO YOUR HEART'S DESIRE AND THE WOOD WON'T CRACK!
ALRIGHT.
KEEP IT DOWN, YOU'LL BOTHER THE NEIGHBORS.
Yay!
Really?!

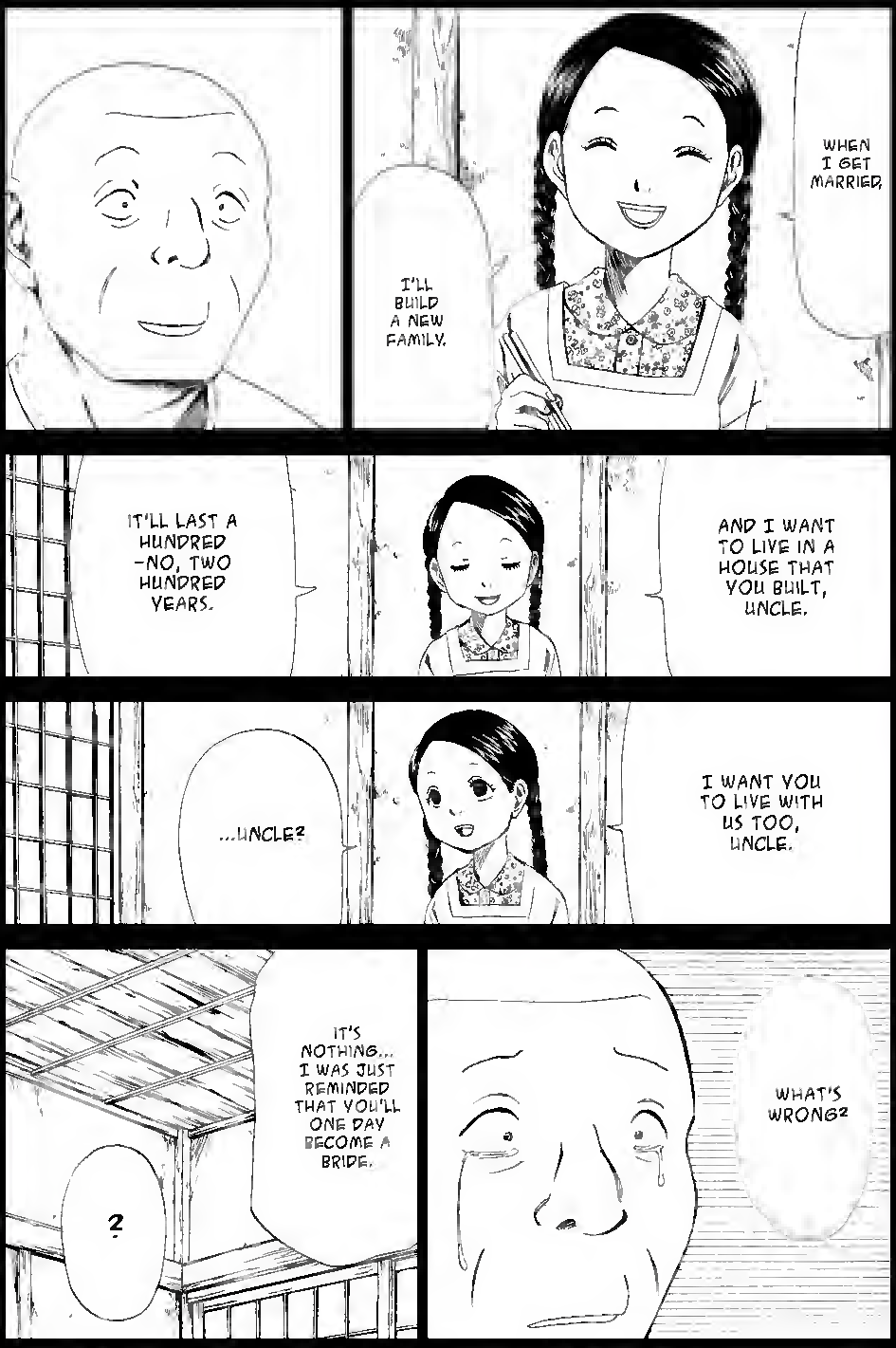

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT, I WAS JUST IN THE MIDDLE OF LUNCH.
your boss won't mind?
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR WORK, MR. T.
THAT'S 'KAY
WHACK!
DON'T NEED IT.
OW!
IT'S NOT MUCH,
BUT PLEASE TAKE THIS DAIKON RADISH AS THANKS.
GET BACK TO WORK!
TOKUJI, THE HELL'RE YOU SLACKING OFF FOR!
OW...
OH, BOSS.
MR. T., THE DAIKON.

GIVE IT TO THE KIDS.
TOLD YOU, I DON'T NEED IT.
IT'S FOR LITTLE MICHI.
AH, NO.
IDIOT, WHY'RE YOU STILL STANDING AROUND?! GET BACK TO WORK!
AH, I'M SORRY FOR HOLDING YOU.
No, no.
THANKS FOR THE DAIKON.
YEAH.
MICHI?
ISN'T THAT YOUR PRETTY 'LIL NIECE?


UNCLE, WELCOME BACK!
I'M HOME~

AH.
SOUNDS GOOD
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. TODAY, MS. SAKAMOTO GAVE ME THIS DAIKON.
BOILED BEANS AND FRIED SPINACH.
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
OH?
THE BUILDING'S ALREADY COMPLETED?

SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN POSSIBLE DURING THE WAR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S FINALLY DONE.
TATENUSHI WAS REALLY EXCITED TO PUT UP THE LAST BEAM.
YEAH.
MM,
THAT'S TRUE...
...
UNCLE?
WHAT IS IT?


WHEN I GET MARRIED,
I'LL BUILD A NEW FAMILY.
AND I WANT TO LIVE IN A HOUSE THAT YOU BUILT, UNCLE.
IT'LL LAST A HUNDRED -NO, TWO HUNDRED YEARS.
I WANT YOU TO LIVE WITH US TOO, UNCLE.
...UNCLE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING... I WAS JUST REMINDED THAT YOU'LL ONE DAY BECOME A BRIDE.
?

HA HA HA HA!
HAHA!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE CRYING?
HA...
HA HA...
UNCLE, I'M STILL 14, YOU KNOW?
BUT YOU'RE SO PRETTY, THERE'S NO TELLING...
HA HA HA HA!
JEEZ... YOU'RE SO WEIRD, UNCLE.

JUST NOW, DID YOU HEAR A SOUND COMING FROM THE FIELDS?
WHAT?
REALLY?
WHAT..?
ARE THEY STEALING THE POTATOES?
scuffle
scuffle
HEY,
grab
!

IDIOTS.
WHO'D KILL YOU OVER SOME POTATOES?
Do I really look that scary to you?
PLEASE DON'T KILL US!
S-SORRY!
loom
EEK!
HEY, HEY...
YOU'VE DUG UP ALL THE POTATOES...
WE FIGURED THE POTATOES WOULDN'T GET ANY BIGGER.
YEAH! WE WERE JUST GONNA TAKE THEM TO PLANT SOME MORE.
ARE YOU TWO HUNGRY?

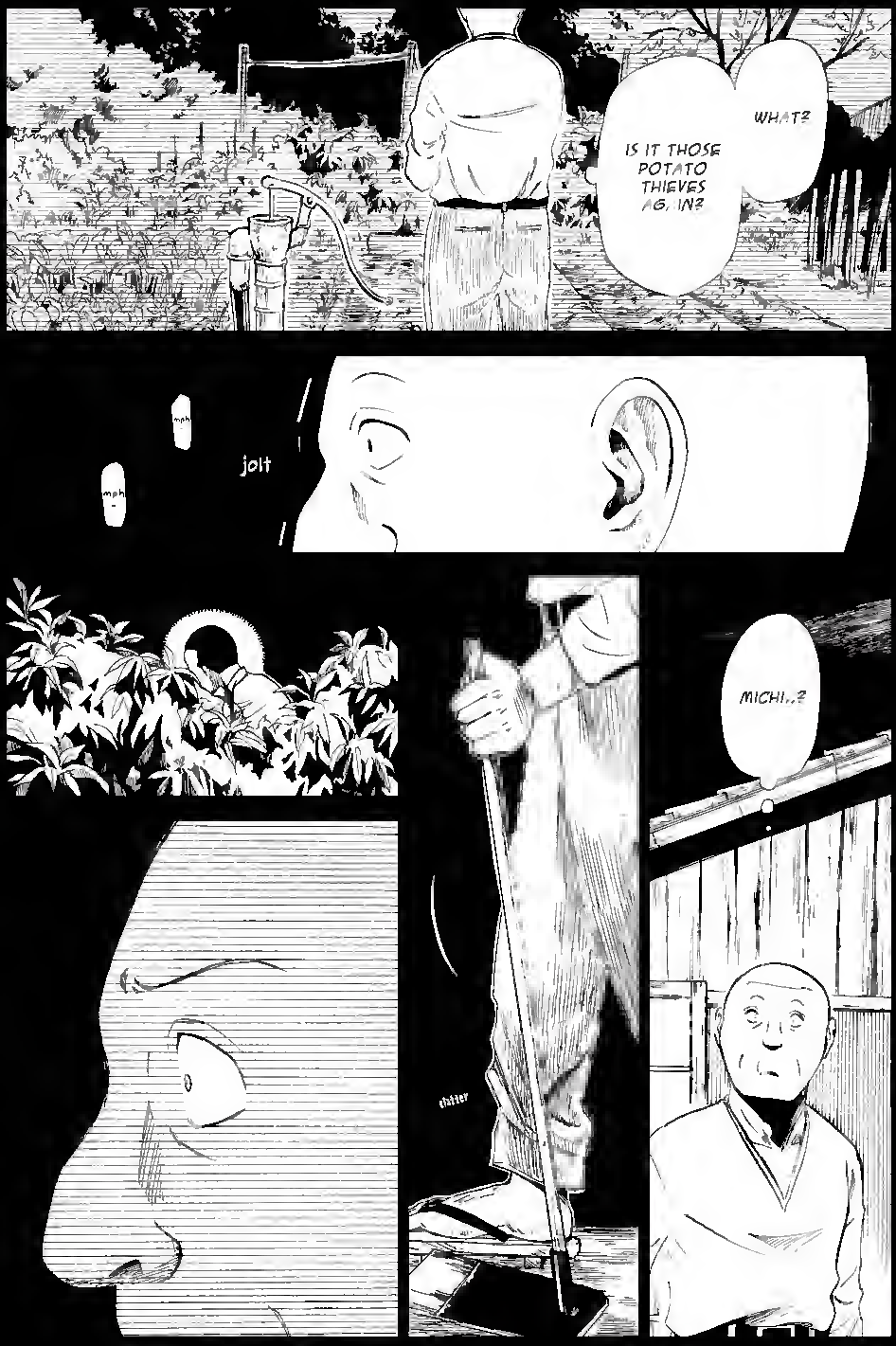
OKAY?
ARE YOU TWO BROTHERS?
YOU CAN HAVE THIS DAIKON.
SORRY UNCLE. YOU WORKED HARD FOR THIS DAIKON.
IT'S OKAY.
NO BIG DEAL.

HEY, TOKUJI.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T ADOPTED YOUR NIECE?
HER PARENTS HAVE ALREADY PASSED RIGHT?
ADOPT 'ER ALREADY.
YOU'RE A WIDOWER WITH NO KIDS.
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE?
HM, IT'D BE NICE, BUT...
I JUST DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE HER PARENT...
ARE YOU STUPID?

I'M TELLING YOU, I'VE SEEN ALL THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR YOUR NIECE.
KINDA MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH SOMETIMES.
YOU DON'T BECOME A PARENT BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE ONE. YOU BECOME A PARENT WHEN YOU LOVE A CHILD.
JUST BECOME A DADDY-DAUGHTER PAIR ALREADY.
WILL YOU STOP CRYING FOR ONCE, YOU CRYBABY?!
B-
BUT.. BECOM-ING A PARENT ...

step
step
SIGH...
AS HER DEAR FATHER..
HAHA!
WHEN MICHI GETS MARRIED
OH...
I COULD GO DRINKING WITH HER HUSBAND..
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST WENT DRINKING~
TATENUSHI SURE CAN DRINK~

MICHI?
I HAVE BROUGHT HOME A DAIKON AGAIN.
WE WENT DRINKING TO CELEBRATE THE FINISHED BUILDING.
MICHI,
I'M HOME~
SHE STILL HASN'T FINISHED HER DINNER?
She must've gone to take a bath.
WHAT?
rustle
AH...
WATER,
WATER...


WHAT?
IS IT THOSE POTATO THIEVES AGAIN?
jolt
mph
mph
MICHI..?
chitter

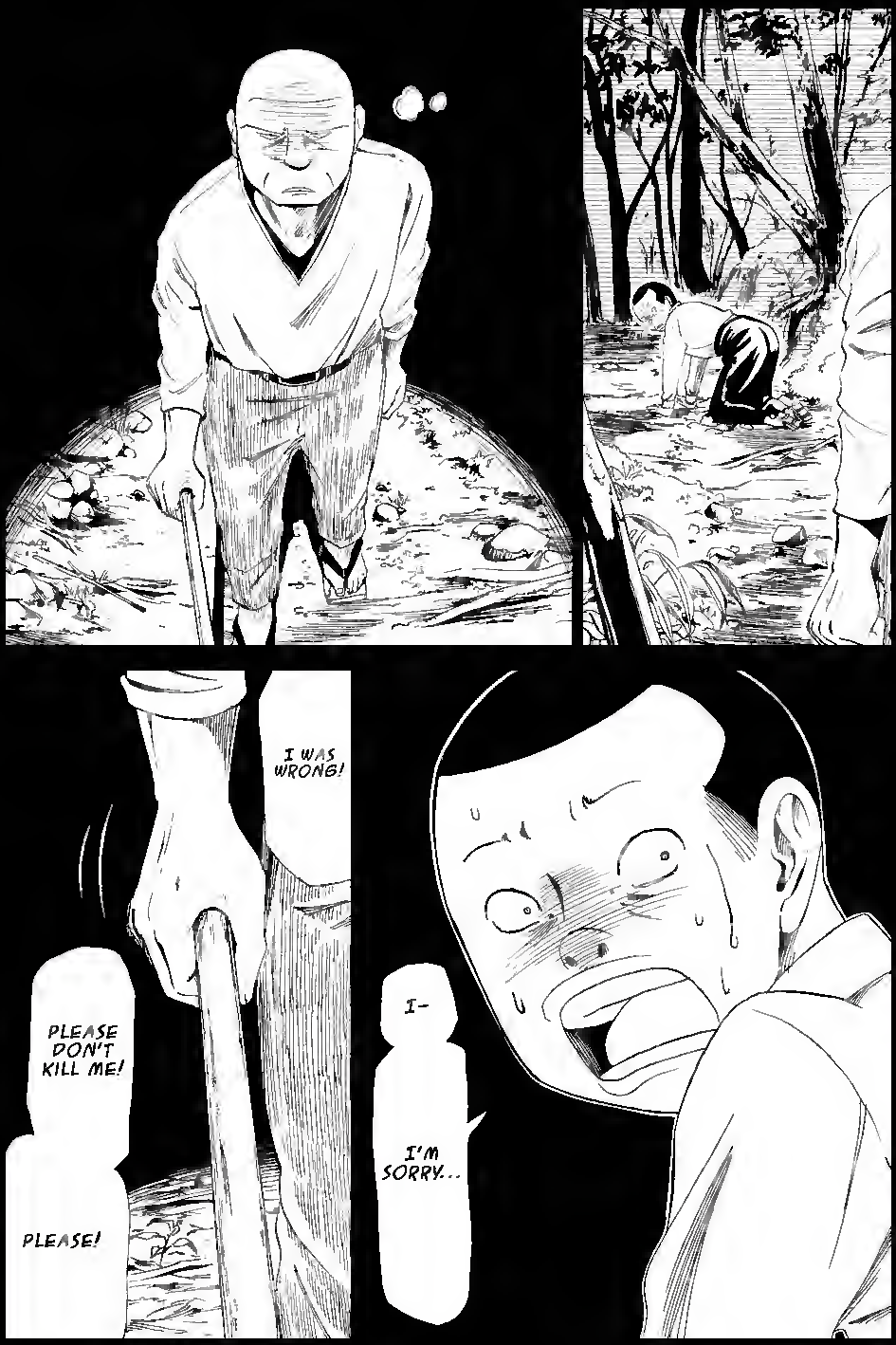
COME ON, IT'S MY TURN!
WAIT
A LITTLE MORE...
m-h
mph

SLASH
IT HURTS, IT HURTS!
AGH!

dash
EEK...
GO BACK INTO THE HOUSE, MICHI.
GO!
wobble
wah ...
UGH ...
OW ...

STAB
sob
BIG BROTHER SAVE ME
OW...
OW...
shiver
pant
pant
pant

dash
dash
dash
dash
ip
tc
UGH...
EEK!
EEK!
OW...
!
OW..!
limp
slip


I WAS WRONG!
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!
PLEASE!
I-
I'M SORRY...

AND I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR LAST TIME...
THEN...
I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU HAD EXTRA FOOD AGAIN...
SORRY-
SORRY-
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT'D BE LIKE!
SO...
I...
THE GIRL JUST HAPPENED TO ANSWER THE DOOR...
BITE
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME...

"PLEASE
DON'T KILL ME?"
FUCK-ING BRAT ..!
UGH...
AH!
EEK...
wack
SLAM
AAAAHHHHHHH!!
step

*T/N: AS IN HER INNOCENT, HAPPY OUTLOOK ON LIFE, NOT HER PHYSICAL VIRGINITY (ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE THAT CAN ALSO APPLY IN THIS CASE)

TOKUJI ISHIMA

I BECAME THE FOSTER PARENT OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER FUKUO'S ELDEST DAUGHTER MICHI. I LOVED HER AS IF SHE WERE MY OWN.

I USED A HOE TO KILL THE TWO BOYS WHO RAPED HER AND BURIED THEIR BODIES IN THE MOUNTAINS.

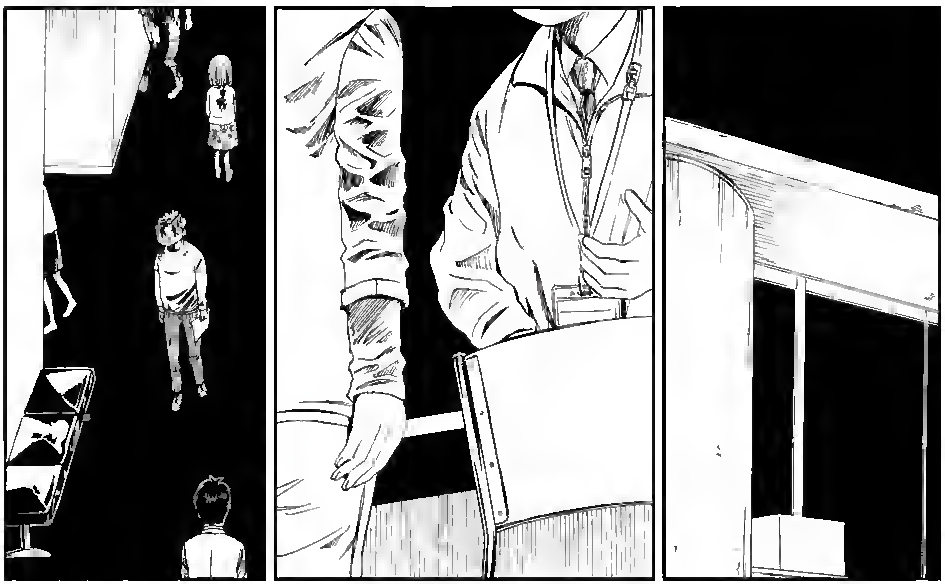
THE BODIES WERE FOUND. A YEAR LATER, MICHI BECAME A BRIDE.

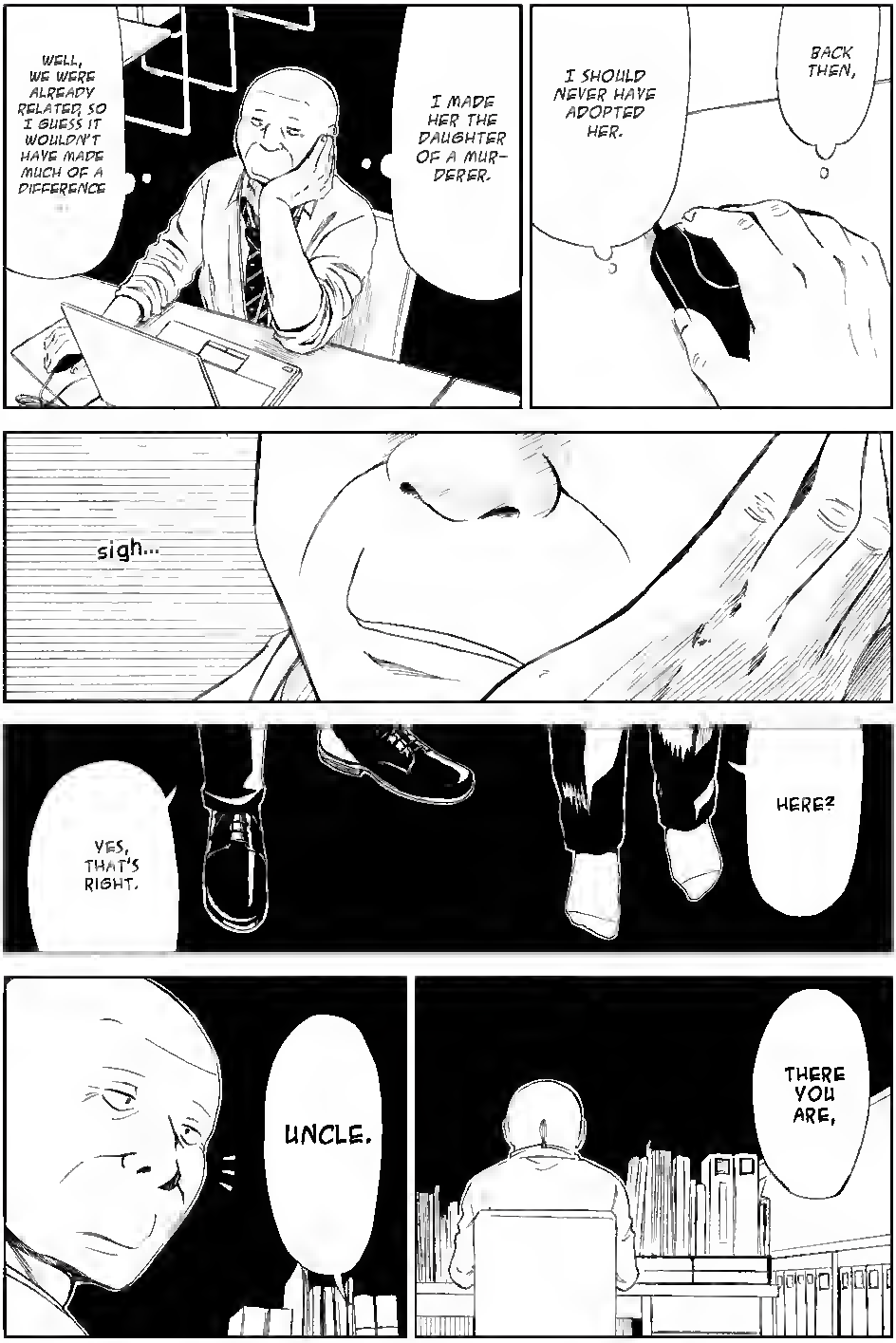
I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT...
AND THEY DID SOMETHING UNFORGIVEABLE.
THAT DAY, I HAD BEEN DRINKING.
THEY HAD STOLEN MY POTATOES BEFORE.

MICHI HID HER TRAUMA, AND I CONFESSED TO THE CRIME.

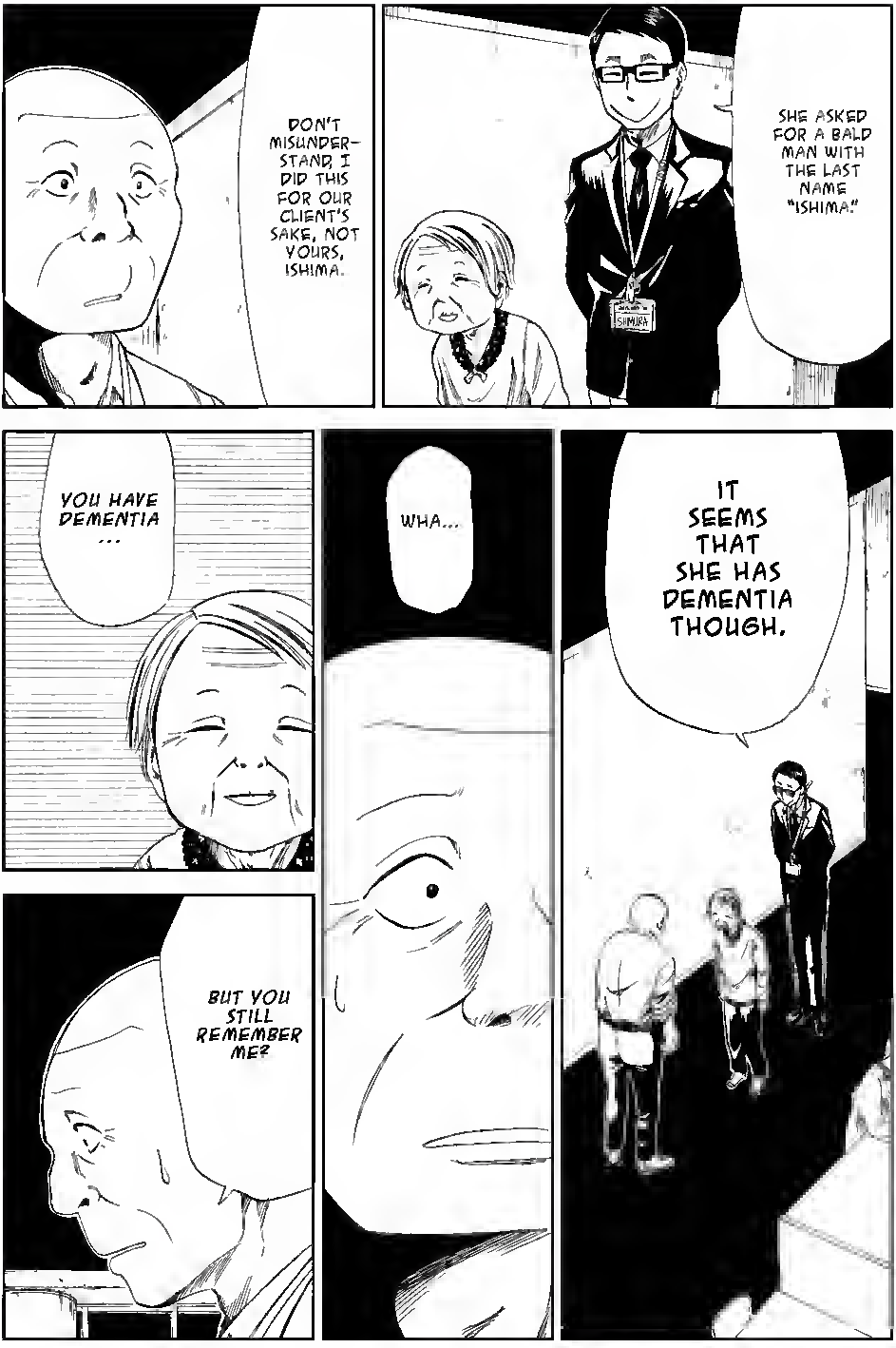
BECAUSE OF THE BRUTAL NATURE OF THE CRIME,
I GOT THE DEATH PENALTY.

AFTER THAT, MICHI TRIED TO GET THE SENTENCE REDUCED
BY REOPENING THE CASE, BUT HER REQUEST WAS DENIED,
AND THE EXECUTION WAS CARRIED OUT.

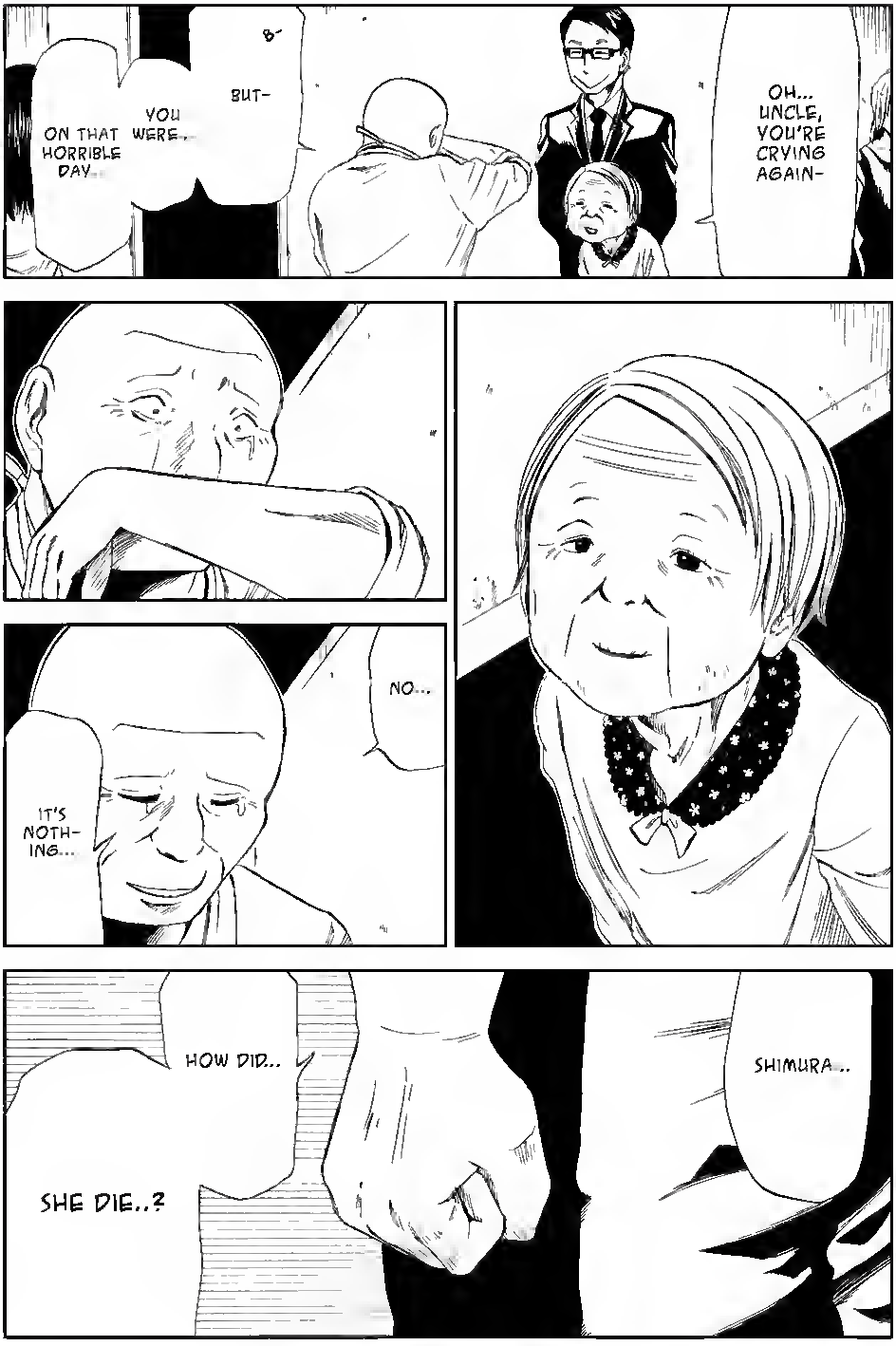


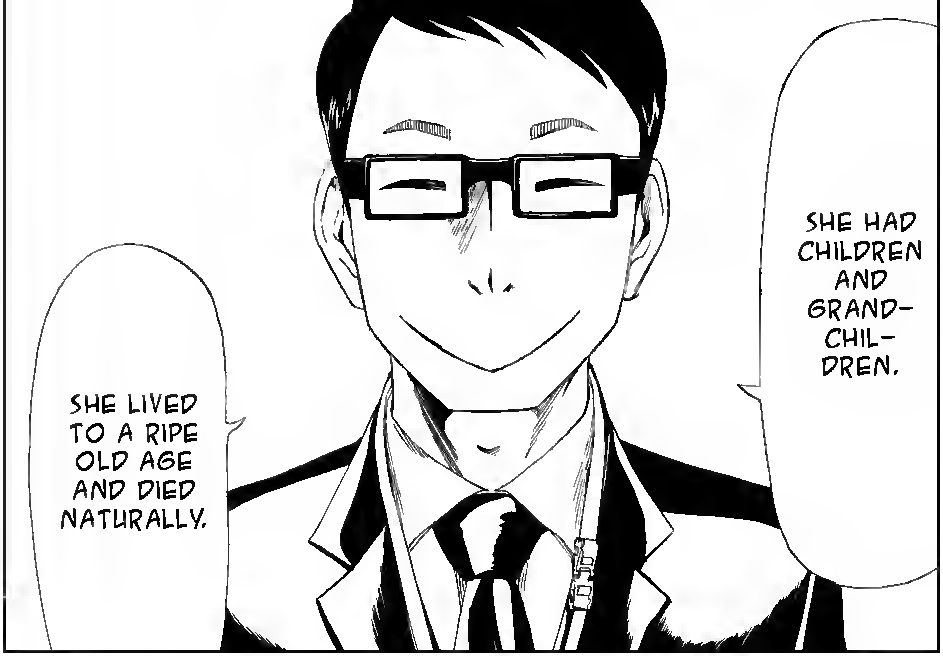

WELL, WE WERE ALREADY RELATED, SO I GUESS IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE
I MADE HER THE DAUGHTER OF A MURDERER.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE ADOPTED HER.
BACK THEN,
sigh...
HERE?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
UNCLE.
THERE YOU ARE,

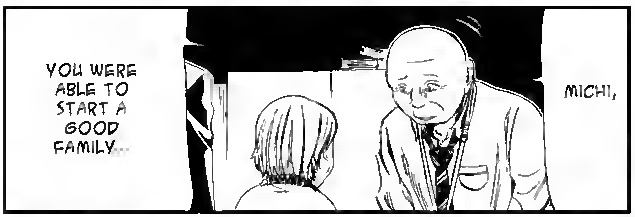
UNCLE!
MICHI
...
UNCLE!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG~
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL, UNCLE?

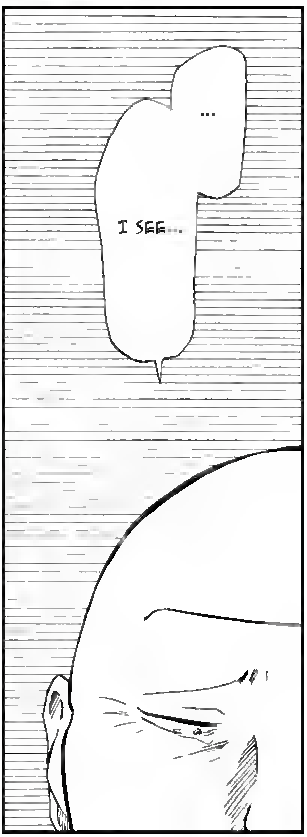

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND, I DID THIS FOR OUR CLIENT'S SAKE, NOT YOURS, ISHIMA.
SHE ASKED FOR A BALD MAN WITH THE LAST NAME "ISHIMA."
ISHIMA
YOU HAVE DEMENTIA ...
WHA...
IT SEEMS THAT SHE HAS DEMENTIA THOUGH.
BUT YOU STILL REMEMBER ME?

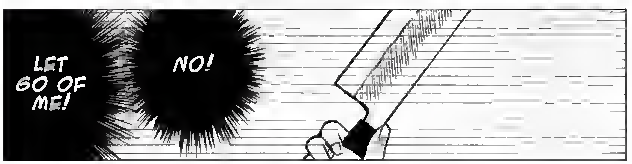
OLDER MEMORIES...
WITH MOST PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA, THEY'LL RETAIN OLDER MEMORIES.
I WANT TO DIE...
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
STAY AWAY!
GO AWAY!

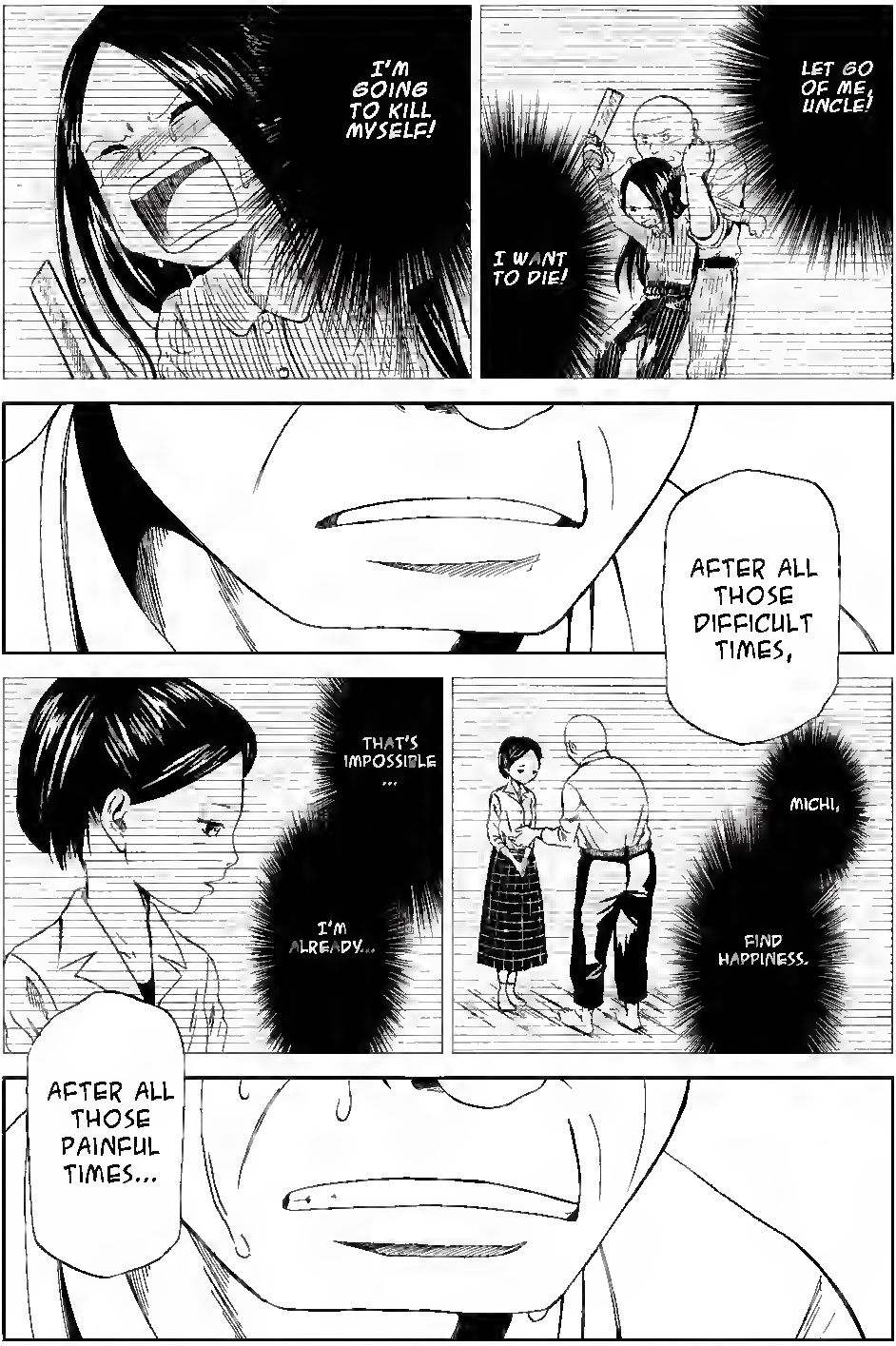

OH... UNCLE, YOU'RE CRYING AGAIN-
B-
BUT-
YOU WERE... ON THAT HORRIBLE DAY...
NO...
IT'S NOTH-ING...
SHIMURA..
HOW DID..
SHE DIE..?

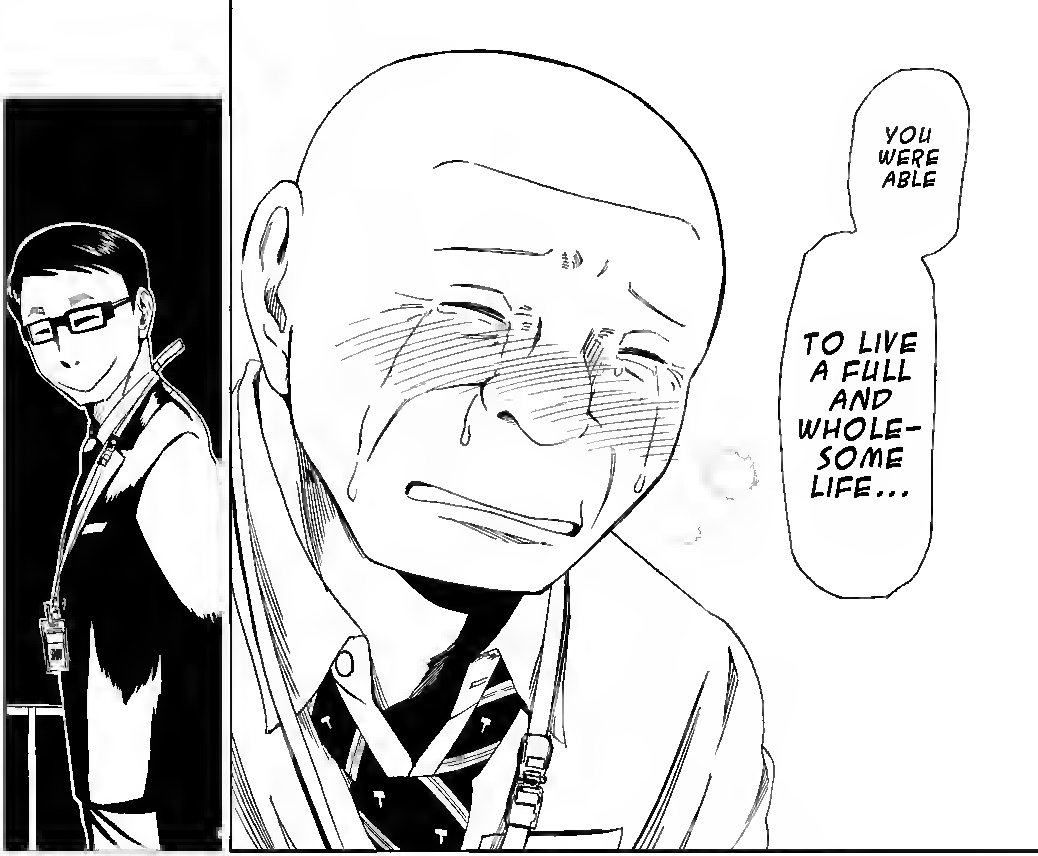

SHE HAD CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHIL-DREN.
SHE LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE AND DIED NATURALLY.

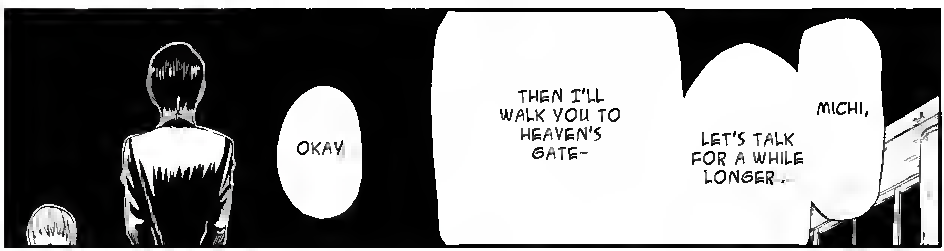

YOU WERE ABLE TO START A GOOD FAMILY...
MICHI,


...
I SEE...


LET GO OF ME!
NO!


I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF!
LET GO OF ME, UNCLE!
I WANT TO DIE!
AFTER ALL THOSE DIFFICULT TIMES,
MICHI,
FIND HAPPINESS.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE ...
I'M ALREADY...
AFTER ALL THOSE PAINFUL TIMES...


YOU WERE ABLE
TO LIVE A FULL AND WHOLE-SOME LIFE...


MICHI,
LET'S TALK FOR A WHILE LONGER.
THEN I'LL WALK YOU TO HEAVEN'S GATE-
OKAY